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Strengthened and Unified Security Management System for the United Nations

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The report of the Secretary-General on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations (A/59/365 and Corr.1) examines the current state of the United Nations security system and contains proposals for a second phase of longer-term measures, as envisaged in the phase I report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises (A/58/756). The addendum to the phase II report (A/59/365/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) contains revised estimates under various sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 resulting from the proposed phase II security measures.

I. Background

2. Following the events of September 2001 in the United States, the Secretary-General proposed short-term measures to strengthen the security and safety of the United Nations. The related requirements of $3,573,600 were reported to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session in the second performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2001-2002 (A/56/674 and Corr.1). The Secretary-General has reported that those short-term measures have been largely implemented (A/56/848).

3. In that report (A/56/848), the Secretary-General proposed long-term measures for the strengthening of security and safety. The total estimated cost of the proposed measures amounted to $57,785,300, including the cost of 130 new regular budget posts. The General Assembly, by its resolution 56/286, approved the proposed measures and appropriated the requested funding of $57,785,300.

4. The phase I measures for strengthening the security and safety were proposed by the Secretary-General in his above-mentioned report (A/58/756). The related

regular budget requirements of $71,881,600 largely covered security infrastructure enhancements as well as a number of new security posts. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with regard to the phase I security measures are contained in its report thereon (A/58/758). The General Assembly, by its resolution 58/295, approved an amount of $56,369,000 under the regular budget (including a commitment of $38,033,200 for the financing of infrastructure projects) for the phase I security measures. The General Assembly also approved the establishment of 58 field security posts for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator and decided to revert to the question of possible conversion of the 58 extrabudgetary field security posts of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator during the fifty-ninth session. The General Assembly further approved funding for additional posts to be financed from general temporary assistance during the six-month period from 1 July to 31 December 2004 (see annex I to the present report).

5. The following table, which is based on data provided by the Secretariat, is limited to data on the implementation of security-related infrastructure projects approved for under General Assembly resolutions 56/286 and 58/295 (phase I) (thousands of United States dollars):

Duty station	*Approved by resolution 56/286 (June 2002)*	*Approved by resolution 58/295 (June 2004)*	*Total approved funding*	*Funds committed by September 2004*	*Balance*
Headquarters	26 000.0	15 129.2	41 129.2	33 460.5	7 668.7
United Nations Office at Geneva	19 443.2	17 907.0	37 350.2	15 504.0	21 846.2
United Nations Office at Vienna	1 250.0	6 916.0	8 166.0	1 959.8	6 206.2
United Nations Office at Nairobi	521.0	3 378.4	3 899.4	1 010.6	2 888.9
Economic Commission for Africa	333.5	2 220.0	2 553.5	519.7	2 033.8
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	146.1	210.0	356.1	164.1	192.0
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	101.6	774.6	876.2	513.6	362.6
Total	**47 795.4**	**46 535.2**	**94 330.6**	**53 132.3**	**41 198.4**

Annex II to the present report, which has been provided by the Secretariat, gives a detailed description of the implementation status of various infrastructure improvement projects.

6. The Committee points out that the total of $94.3 million approved for phase I reflects various stages of project implementation: a number of projects have been completed, while the majority of them are still in progress. As can be seen from the above table, a balance of $41.2 million has yet to be committed. The Committee was provided upon enquiry with the breakdown of funds committed for the projects by pre-encumbrance, obligations and disbursement.

7. This data points to a particular problem at the United Nations Office at Geneva, which shows a high amount of pre-encumbrance ($9,321,500), or 60.1 per cent compared with the total disbursement of $15,504,000. The Committee recalls its observation and concern that the high level of pre-encumbrances is indicative of

slow progress in the implementation of projects funded from the construction-in-progress account. The Committee notes that the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), in its report on the utilization and management of funds appropriated during the 2002-2003 biennium for strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/59/396), also pointed to delays in the implementation of security strengthening projects at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

8. The Committee notes that a number of deficiencies in planning and administering the infrastructure improvement projects at Headquarters were identified by OIOS in its report on the utilization and management of funds appropriated during the 2002-2003 biennium. The Committee also notes that the Administration accepted the OIOS recommendations and is working on the required changes to the planning process.

II. Report on phase II

9. The Secretary-General estimates the total costs of the proposed phase II measures for strengthening the security and safety of the United Nations at $97.1 million (gross) for 2004-2005, including one-time requirements, of $29.6 million. As indicated in the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/365/Add.1), the estimated total of $97.1 million would provide for the following:

(a) Strengthened and unified security management structure: $71.5 million, including:

(i) $14.2 million for a Directorate of Security;

(ii) $35.7 million for field security locations;

(iii) $17.5 million for the reinforcement of the United Nations Security and Safety Services at Headquarters and in the seven main offices of the Organization;

(iv) $4.1 million for other locations;

(b) Implementation of a number of projects to bring infrastructure and procedures up to a satisfactory standard of compliance with headquarters minimum operating security standards: $10.4 million;

(c) Global access control system: $11.2 million;

(d) Training: $4 million.

10. The Secretary-General's proposals provide for an additional 778 posts, of which 195 would be at the Professional or higher level and the remaining 583 in the General Service and related categories. The additional 778 posts include 34 conversions from existing general temporary assistance (24 in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories) and extrabudgetary posts (10 in the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator).

11. The Committee was informed that the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator guided the formulation of proposals for an increase in the capacity of

the Security and Safety Services as well as for the design of a global access control system. The Committee was further informed that the Organization also sought the expertise of safety and security specialists for an external validation of the proposals across duty stations. In the case of the Security and Safety Services, the assessments were conducted against industry best standards and headquarters minimum operating security standards criteria. With regard to the design of the global access control system, the assessment focused on the technical soundness and cost-effectiveness of the proposed system against the requirements of headquarters minimum operating security standards (see A/59/365/Add.1, para. 5).

12. No new resources are proposed for peacekeeping operations and Tribunals, since, according to the Secretary-General, their main requirements have been substantially addressed in the phase I report. The Secretary-General indicates that requirements of special political missions will be addressed in the context of the review, during the fifty-ninth session, of the report entitled "Special political missions: estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized".

13. The Committee further notes that the total estimated requirements of $97.1 million proposed at phase II are separate from provisions that have been or will be proposed by the individual United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies through their executive boards relating to their security structures at headquarters and in the field.

14. The report of the Secretary-General (A/59/365 and Corr.1) takes into account an evaluation of the United Nations security management system by a team of independent security experts concluded in August 2003, just prior to the attack of 19 August 2003 in Baghdad, as well as the recommendations of the Independent Panel on the Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel on its investigation of the Baghdad attack. The Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General also takes into account a number of the Committee's comments and recommendations in its last report (A/58/758). With regard to paragraph 7 of its last report, the Committee notes that the Secretariat has acknowledged that, at the present time, it does not possess the capability to conduct security threat and risk assessments and timely and comprehensive follow-on planning on either a global or a country-level basis (see A/59/365, para. 30; see also A/59/365, para. 54; and para. 20 below). In response to paragraph 6 (f) of General Assembly resolution 58/295, the Secretary-General is requesting resources to develop this capacity.

15. **That being stated, the Committee would have appreciated a statement of the underlying assumptions which described, in general terms, the nature of the threat and the basic principles relied upon by the United Nations to develop the response represented by the proposals in the report of the Secretary-General. The absence of such a basic framework, together with the fact that the proposed security management system has been formulated on what has been described by the Committee as a piecemeal basis (see A/58/758, para. 6), has made consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals more difficult. The Committee also observes that the report lacks information on workload statistics and the extent to which requests for material and equipment have been based on objective technical standards. Although not included in the report, details on staff resources involved in the field security arrangements of United Nations funds and programmes were provided to the Committee upon request and are reproduced in annex III to the present report.**

16. The Committee provides below a series of observations and recommendations on a unified security management system for the United Nations, in which the Committee takes the view that the new system should be primarily focused on the field, with a streamlined central capacity at Headquarters, and that the new system should be fully integrated.

17. Accordingly, the recommendations of the Committee set out below call for shifts of assets and economies of resources in some areas. There is also much work to be done in achieving full integration and bringing arrangements with host Governments up to date. The Committee is therefore of the view that an implementation report should be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

III. Specific observations and recommendations of the Committee

Host-country agreements

18. In paragraph 14 of his report (A/59/365 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General indicates that the primary responsibility for the security and protection of staff members, their spouses, dependants and property rests with the host Government. Annex VI of the addendum to the report (A/59/365/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) provides information on the United Nations cooperation with, and the role and responsibilities of, host countries. The Committee exchanged views with representatives of the Secretary-General at Headquarters and in the field (through videoconferencing) on the status of host-country agreements vis-à-vis security and their practical implementation.

19. The Committee was informed during its deliberations that, while the host countries where the United Nations has established offices, when approached, respond positively to the organization's security concerns, formal agreements with them do not always address or reflect current security challenges and the current security environment. In some cases, the formal agreements do not specify the exact level of the host-country's commitment for the security and safety of United Nations personnel and premises in the country. A number of formal agreements were signed many years ago, when security concerns and realities were dramatically different, compared with today's experience. **The Committee is concerned that working arrangements with host Governments with regard to their responsibilities for United Nations security and safety were not always finalized in legally binding written documents (exchange of letters, signed protocols to the formal agreements etc.). The Committee expects that the updating and revision of those agreements will be negotiated at the highest level as a matter of priority (see para. 38 below).**

20. The Committee points out that, notwithstanding the willingness of host countries to assume the responsibility for the security of United Nations staff, their spouses, dependants and United Nations property, their capacity to assume such responsibility differs from one duty station to another. The Committee was informed that while the capacity of host countries in such United Nations locations as New York, Geneva and Vienna is at a level that meets most security requirements of the United Nations, some host countries, especially where the United Nations field

offices are located, do not possess such a capacity (see para. 45 below). **The Committee is of the view that this uneven capacity of host countries to provide security to the United Nations should be fully reflected in the Organization's approach to security matters. The United Nations should concentrate on enhancing cooperation and collaboration with national and/or local law enforcement agencies in locations where host countries have well developed security structures and means; the United Nations should also make the maximum use of those countries' capacity in security threat and risk assessment. At the same time, in some United Nations field offices in developing countries which do not have adequate security means and capacity for threat and risk assessment, special attention should be paid to strengthening the ability of the United Nations to ensure its own security. The Committee notes the development by the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator of a security risk-management methodology for use at the field level (see A/59/365, para. 54).**

Unified security structure

21. As indicated in paragraph 15 of the report of the Secretary-General, security services for the United Nations are currently provided through four separate structures: the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator; the security component of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations; the Security and Safety Services (at New York, Vienna, Geneva, the International Tribunals and the regional commissions); and the security components of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The Secretary-General proposes to establish a new Directorate of Security headed by an Under-Secretary-General reporting directly to the Secretary-General. The proposed Directorate is intended to unify the existing offices of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, the Security and Safety Services and the security component of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in a single organizational structure. The Secretary-General indicates that the Directorate would provide common security policies and standards; a central security threat and risk-assessment capability; operational and technical support to headquarters and field office security elements; a monitoring and compliance capability; a strengthened training capacity; and common recruitment and career management of security personnel (see A/59/365, para. 45).

22. The Committee notes (see A/59/365, para. 37) that day-to-day decision-making on matters of security will remain decentralized, i.e., security decisions at the field duty stations will continue to be made by the designated officials; security decisions at the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office at Vienna will continue to be made by the Directors-General; and for the regional commissions, as well as at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, security decisions will continue to be taken under the existing field security management system. A unit of the proposed Directorate of Security, to be funded from the peacekeeping support account, would be located in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to support the management of the day-to-day security issues of peacekeeping operations.

23. Moreover, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes will continue to operate, recruit and maintain their own security personnel. As indicated in paragrapl 27 of the report (A/59/365 and Corr.1), there are currently some 164 agency-specific security officers working at field duty stations (160 as at 18 October

2004; see annex III to the present report). Those officers report to the agency's head of office and their main function is to advise their country representative and to be responsible for the security aspects of activities that are specific to their organization. The Committee was informed that the High-level Committee on Management, at its meeting held in Rome on 5 and 6 October 2004, took note of further work that had to be undertaken on such issues as governance, an implementation strategy for the new security management system and strengthened coordination at all headquarters' locations, including how to maximize partnerships and collaboration with specialized agencies. The High-level Committee also took note that the new United Nations Security Directorate would not be responsible for security at headquarters locations of the specialized agencies, and requested that both security networks — field and headquarters — submit proposals to the High-level Committee on mechanisms that would ensure a robust, well coordinated global security management system.

24. **In the opinion of the Committee, although the proposed security structure represents progress, it appears to be far from unified despite its title. The Committee points out that much remains to be done if the result of the reorganization is to be genuine integration rather than merely enhanced coordination. As it stands now, separate security structures will continue to exist, with a continuing potential for duplication and potentially dangerous confusion. Accordingly, at each and every United Nations duty station there should be an integrated team which has been organized to fully respond to the requirements of the security profile at that duty station (see also para. 47 below). From the outset, the efforts of the head of the proposed Directorate should focus on achieving such integration.**

Accountability and responsibility framework

25. **The Committee points out that genuine integration also needs to be reflected in the accountability and responsibility framework.** In paragraphs 29 to 59 of his report (A/59/365 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General discusses the reporting lines of participants in the United Nations security management system, their accountability and responsibility. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and heads of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, as set out in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report entitled "Interorganizational measures: framework for accountability for the United Nations field security management system" (A/57/365), would remain intact.

26. **Having reviewed the proposed arrangements for the accountability and responsibility framework and after discussing the matter with the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Committee still has no clear understanding of exactly how the lines of reporting and decision-making would work in complex operations involving regional commissions, peacekeeping activities, special political missions, and humanitarian and other activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The Committee is of the view that the role of each responsible official, including the chiefs of administration in each location, and their place in the security framework should be further clarified. It must be made clear that all lines of authority ultimately lead to the head of the proposed Directorate, who on behalf of the Secretary-General should exercise complete and effective control over all security matters**

pertaining to the United Nations, its funds and programmes and the specialized agencies insofar as they are represented in the field.

Cost-sharing arrangements

27. As indicated in paragraph 63 of his report (A/59/365 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General reiterates the proposal made earlier in 2004 to phase out the current system of cost-sharing. As a transitional arrangement, cost-sharing would continue with respect to the initial appropriation approved by the General Assembly for the 2004-2005 programme budget. However, all additional requirements, subsequent to the initial appropriation for 2004-2005, would be entirely funded from the United Nations regular budget rather than cost-shared among the organizations of the United Nations system. Under those arrangements, from 2006 onward, all costs relating to the Directorate of Security, including the cost of all field security officer posts, would be funded from the United Nations regular budget, according to the report of the Secretary-General.

28. However, the current cost-sharing arrangements would continue to apply to the cost of the malicious acts insurance policy. Similarly, specific arrangements in place at New York and Vienna for sharing the costs of the central Security and Safety Services between the United Nations and other entities (the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization) based in the two locations would continue. The current cost-sharing arrangements would also continue to apply to those organizations not in the United Nations system that are covered by the United Nations field security management system, including the International Organization for Migration, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Asian Development Bank.

29. The current cost-sharing arrangements were approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/255, under the terms of which the United Nations field security management system would assume collective responsibility for the safety and security of its staff. Thus, field-related costs, which are incurred either in the field or at headquarters locations through the provision of operational support, are to be shared on a proportional basis. Central costs related to the management and direction of the United Nations field security management system are borne by the United Nations.

30. In paragraphs 61 and 62 of his report (A/59/365 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General discusses deficiencies in the current cost-sharing arrangements, such as the reliance by participating agencies, funds and programmes on voluntary contributions for their assessed share of security costs and practical problems in implementing the cost-sharing arrangements, including labour-intensive procedures and censuses, delays in reimbursements and arrears in contributions.

31. The Committee recalls that it had commented extensively on the issue of cost-sharing in a number of its reports. For example, in paragraph 17 of its report on the safety and security of United Nations personnel (A/55/658), the Committee stated the following:

> "The Committee points out that the current arrangements for sharing the costs of the security management system were approved by the General Assembly (see annex I to the present report), and thus cannot be altered without the approval of the General Assembly. While the Committee agrees that the procedure for funding should be managed from one source and, further, that the source should be the United Nations, it is strongly against the proposal to eliminate cost-sharing among the organizations that participate in and use the services of the United Nations security management system."

In paragraph 31 of its report on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises (A/58/758), the Committee indicated that:

> "the United Nations Secretariat and United Nations organizations, funds and programmes share a common responsibility for the security and safety of their staff and it is in their interest to provide adequate and assured funding for security. The Committee is of the view that deficiencies in the current funding arrangement should be addressed in the context of inter-agency mechanisms for coordination and cooperation. The Committee reiterates its belief in the importance of adhering to shared financial responsibility in the coordinated management of the safety and security of United Nations personnel (see A/56/619, para. 15)."

32. **Closely related to this view is the idea that all concerned must share a common ownership in the system, with the right to participate in decision-making. To that end, the cost-sharing principle must be maintained, otherwise there might be a tendency to use the money saved to continue and/or expand separate systems.**

33. **Accordingly, the Committee recommends against the proposal to phase out the cost-sharing arrangements for field-related costs among the organizations that participate in and use the services of the United Nations field security management system. That being stated, the Committee, with a view to enhancing operational flexibility, recommends that the United Nations appropriate and advance the entire requirement, subject to proportional reimbursement from the agencies, which would be credited to income section 2. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the implication of maintaining the current formula of cost-sharing arrangements in place for field security would be a reduction in the amount to be assessed on United Nations Member States by $30,376,400 for 2004-2005. The share of United Nations funds and programmes would thereby increase by the same amount.**

Directorate of Security

34. As indicated in paragraph 21 above, the proposed Directorate is supposed to unify the existing offices of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, the Security and Safety Services and the security component of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations into a single organizational structure. The staffing of the Directorate would comprise a total of 1,788 posts under a new budget section (section 36), broken down as follows: 1,034 existing posts of the three components that are to be unified; 99 new posts for the new Directorate's central core structure at Headquarters; and 655 new or converted posts (261 field security officer posts and 394 Security and Safety Services posts at the regional commissions and the main offices, including Headquarters).

35. **The Committee has noticed that elaborate structures which replicate existing arrangements are often proposed for new and strengthened activities of the Organization. This tendency must be stopped.**

36. **It is not necessary for the new security entity to have an autonomous administrative and support capacity at Headquarters. The Headquarters operation should focus on policy-setting, general direction, strategic and forward planning, coordination and monitoring functions. In addition, Headquarters should continue to liaise with the host-country security authorities in New York.**

37. The Secretary-General proposes to establish a new Under-Secretary-General post for the head of the proposed Directorate of Security. **The Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General does not provide information on whether or not any alternatives to the creation of a new post have indeed been considered, such as the redeployment of an existing USG post; another alternative, in the view of the Committee, could have been a proposal to offset the addition of a new post for a USG by abolishing the existing ASG post of Security Coordinator, which has been vacant since 29 March 2004.**

38. **In view of the many important functions and responsibilities both within the United Nations itself and within the United Nations system that will have to be assumed by the head of the proposed Directorate, including the integration of security structures, improving the effectiveness of existing host-country arrangements and, if mandated by the General Assembly, negotiating a workable cost-sharing arrangement, the Committee supports the establishment of a USG post for the head of the proposed Directorate. The Committee stresses the importance of appointment to the USG post of a security expert with extensive professional experience in the organization and management of a complex international security function. Aside from the consultative and other duties that such a high-level position would entail, this official must be fully capable of providing direct operational leadership.**

39. **Bearing in mind what is stated in paragraph 37 above, the Committee is of the opinion that the case has not been made to maintain the existing ASG post in addition to the new post for USG. The Committee reiterates that the USG must be in direct operational charge of the new entity. As such, there does not appear to be a need for an intermediate bureaucratic layer. Recognizing that the new USG should have the flexibility to delineate functions and decide how management responsibilities will be shared among his senior staff, the Committee expects that recruitment for this crucial USG post will be expedited. If, on the basis of experience, the head of the new security entity deems it necessary to have a deputy at the ASG level, the Secretary-General could propose the creation of such a post in the context of the implementation report called for in paragraph 17 above.**

40. The Committee notes that the head of the proposed Directorate would be assisted during the initial implementation phase by a specially created implementation management team headed by a change manager; subsequent transition phases in 2006 and beyond would be managed from within the existing staffing resources of the proposed Directorate (see A/59/365/Add.1, para. 15). **The Committee expects that the implementation management team will look**

carefully into the organizational structure of the proposed Directorate with a view to rationalizing it, taking into account the views of the Committee.

41. The Committee was informed during its deliberations that the organizational structure of the proposed Directorate is based on lessons learned and experience obtained. In addressing the potential weaknesses in standardization, capacity-building, unified approach and compliance, the organizational structure of the proposed Directorate comprises dedicated organizational units, such as a Policy, Planning and Coordination Unit; a Compliance, Evaluation and Monitoring Unit; a Threat and Risk Analysis Unit; and a Training and Standardization Unit. **The Committee is of the opinion that the establishment of a core capacity with those dedicated units is justifiable and logical, and is consistent with what is stated by the Committee in paragraph 36 above.**

42. At the same time, the organizational structure of the proposed Directorate contains dedicated support components, such as a Human Resources Management Section, a Finance and Budget Section, a Logistics Unit and an Information Systems Support Unit. **The Committee questions the rationale for establishing those units. The Committee is of the view that support services should be provided through existing Secretariat-wide administrative units, such as the Office of Human Resources Management, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, the Procurement Division and the Information Technology Services Division. Accordingly, the Committee recommends against establishing any of the posts for the above-mentioned administrative support units of the proposed Directorate.**

43. **The Committee recommends that, instead of establishing additional administrative support units, the Secretariat establish an Executive Office to provide the traditional support to the proposed Directorate. The Executive Office should be patterned on existing executive offices for organizational units of similar size, such as that for the Department of Management, which has a total of 17 posts headed by a D-1. Resource requirements should be met through redeployment, to the maximum extent possible.**

44. **With the creation of an Executive Office, the remainder of the Division of Administration and Field Support should be renamed to reflect those functions which it will continue to perform (critical incident stress management, training and standardization). There would no longer be a need for the new unit to be headed by a D-2; instead, a D-1 should be in charge, assisted by one P-4 and one General Service (Other level) in his office. The reconfiguration proposed by the Committee should be carried out with the assistance of the implementation management team (see para. 40 above) and the results should be indicated in the implementation report requested in paragraph 17 above.**

45. **The Committee is of the firm view that the United Nations security system should be primarily focused on the field, with a streamlined central capacity at Headquarters. While United Nations entities have responsibility for their premises, headquarters locations should and can rely on host Governments for primary responsibility for security. In general, they command resources and experience in these matters which the United Nations can draw upon. It is in the field where, in some cases, Governments have neither the resources nor the experience to meet all United Nations security needs; indeed, in some places where the United Nations operates, there may not yet be a fully functioning**

national government to undertake this responsibility. The United Nations must therefore assume responsibility for security at some field duty stations and resources should be allocated with this in mind (see para. 20 above).

46. The proposed structure of the Division of Regional Operations, with its five regional desks, appears to have been designed following the model of similar structures in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs and is thus heavily concentrated at Headquarters. The Committee notes the statement in paragraph 53 of the report of the Secretary-General that desk officers would be expected to travel extensively in their regions of responsibility to familiarize themselves with the operational environment. **The Committee is not convinced that this would be an adequate substitute for an actual presence in the field.**

47. **The Committee therefore requests that the implementation management team look into the possibility of providing a regional field presence while maintaining a lean central capacity at Headquarters, using national experience where relevant. Such a configuration should be accommodated within the total number of field desk posts now proposed. Field-based officers would be able to receive information at or very close to the source and to dispense guidance precisely when and where it is needed; they would also be well placed to respond to emergencies. The central capacity at Headquarters could receive information from the field and coordinate with the other central Headquarters units. The Committee is of the opinion that the regional desk system which already exists in the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations could be utilized to liaise with the new security entity. The Committee has repeatedly called for close collaboration between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations desks, and the new security entity should be able to call upon them as necessary.**

48. **The implementation report of the Secretary-General called for in paragraph 17 above should indicate how the decentralization of administrative services and the possible reconfiguration of regional desks has been carried out, as well as any possible savings achieved over and above those resulting from the Committee's specific recommendations on posts. In offering contracts for the remaining posts, the Secretary-General should bear in mind that the numbers and grade levels of those posts will be subject to review in the context of the implementation report.**

Reinforcement of Security and Safety Services

49. An additional 394 posts are proposed for the reinforcement of Security and Safety Services at Headquarters and at the other seven main United Nations locations. The distribution of the existing and proposed additional security officer posts is provided in the following table and in annex IV to the present report:

	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2/1	Subtotal	GS/PL	GS/OL	SS	LL	Subtotal	Total
Headquarters												
Existing	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	17	212	-	230	235
New	-	-	2	-	1	3	-	-	88	-	88	91
United Nations Office at Geneva												
Existing	-	1	1	1	-	3	3	77	-	-	80	83
New	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	54	-	-	54	56
United Nations Office at Vienna												
Existing	-	1	-	1	-	2	2	-	92	-	94	96
New	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	58	-	58	59
United Nations Office at Nairobi												
Existing	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	69	69	71
New	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	47	47	48
Economic Commission for Africa												
Existing	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	44	44	46
New	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	70	70	71
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific												
Existing	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	54	54	55
New	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	21	21	22
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia												
Existing	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	34	34	35
New	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	19	19	20
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean												
Existing	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	23	23	24
New	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	26	26	27
Total												
Existing	1	3	3	7	3	17	6	94	304	224	628	645
New	-	1	6	2	2	11	-	54	146	183	383	394

The above table covers security and safety services personnel only and does not include the proposed 10 new posts (1 D-2, 4 P-4, 1 GS/PL and 3 GS/OL) for the Division of Safety and Security Services at Headquarters.

50. The Committee observes that, with the exception of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Economic Commission for Africa, the strengthening of safety and security units provides not only for an increase in security officers but also for the establishment of new higher-level posts for the heads of such units. As to the proposed D-2 post for the head of the Division of Security and Safety Services at Headquarters, the Committee points out that the report of the Secretary-General does not contain specific justification in support of the proposed additional post, nor does it explain why the existing D-1 post could not be used to "supervise the Security and Safety Service in New York and provide policy direction, operational guidance and overall technical supervision to the Security and Safety Services in New York and at the other headquarters locations around the world" (A/59/365, para. 59). The Committee notes that the posts for all of the chiefs of the various headquarters security services outside New York are established or are proposed to be established at either the P-5 or P-4 levels. Moreover, the Committee was informed that the D-1 post in New York has been vacant since May 2004. Accordingly, the Committee recommends against the establishment of a D-2 post for the head of the Security and Safety Services at Headquarters. If it is deemed necessary, detailed supporting justification could be provided for a reconsideration of the need for this post in the context of the implementation report called for in paragraph 17 above.

51. The report of the Secretary-General does not provide a comparative analysis of requirements for safety and security units against industry standards and workload data; therefore, it is not clear to what extent certain objective criteria (except for size of the perimeter and office space) were used in estimating the need for additional staffing and grade levels. Moreover, in the course of discussing the matter with the representatives of some regional commissions, the Committee was under the impression that the proposal for additional security officer posts was driven to a certain extent by increased requirements for inside-the-perimeter patrolling. That additional requirement was not adequately explained. The Committee is of the view that the composition (including grade levels) and assignment pattern of security and safety services should be reviewed and the results included in the implementation report.

52. The Committee notes the view of the Secretary-General with regard to a new profile for the next generation of security officers (see A/59/365, para. 25). The Committee understands that no specific proposals have been made in connection with the profile and that, if deemed justified and timely by the Secretary-General, the necessary measures would be reported in accordance with established procedures.

Compliance with headquarters minimum operating security standards

53. Information on compliance with headquarters minimum operating security standards is contained in paragraphs 21 to 25 of the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/365/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1). A provision of $10,417,500 is being proposed, largely for the implementation of security-related infrastructure projects, including the upgrading of fire-detection and fire-suppression systems; the installation of blast-resistant film at all offices not included in the phase I request; the strengthening of perimeters; and other detection, emergency and back-up

systems. The Committee observes that the measures proposed by the Secretary-General, which result largely from the findings of completed security assessment studies, would raise the United Nations level of compliance with headquarters minimum operating security standards and minimum operating security standards. The Committee has pointed to delays in the implementation of projects at the United Nations Office at Geneva (see para. 7 above). **The Committee expects that measures will be taken to expedite the construction work at the United Nations Office at Geneva.**

54. The Committee notes that a provision is made for infrastructure improvement projects for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). **Taking into account that the United Nations regular budget contribution to the administrative expenditures of UNHCR is limited to a specific provision authorized by the General Assembly under budget section 25 of the programme budget for 2004-2005, the Committee requests that the Administration verify whether it is appropriate to increase the United Nations contribution to UNHCR.**

55. The Committee notes from paragraph 10 of the addendum to the report (A/59/365/Add.1) that the full implementation at the United Nations Office at Vienna of the infrastructure improvement projects of phase I and those additional measures that are now being proposed would ensure full compliance with headquarters minimum operating security standards requirements. The Committee was informed, however, during its videoconference with the United Nations Office at Vienna, that one of the major security concerns of the Administration is the operation of the commissary. **The Committee trusts that the Administration will take the necessary measures to mitigate security risks related to access by the public (including vehicles) to the commissary and report on the results achieved in the implementation report requested in paragraph 17 above.**

Global access control system

56. A provision of $11,173,300 is being proposed by the Secretary-General for a comprehensive system to control the access of people and vehicles entering United Nations premises, identify breaches to perimeter integrity and respond to any eventual threats. The system would include the use of electronic proximity cards through turnstiles or hydraulic barriers to control the entry of legitimately identified pedestrians and vehicles; equipment to detect explosive, chemical or biological materials; cameras, sensors and alarms to detect intrusion into the perimeter; and closed circuit TV to monitor and respond to an emergency situation. The system would also provide for the development of a project referred to as global ID management. The project was initiated to avoid the creation and maintenance of multiple databases at United Nations duty stations and further enhance system-wide security by ensuring that all locations are working from the same database when issuing or denying ID cards. As indicated in paragraph 30 of the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/365/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1), the total cost of implementing a fully integrated global control system at the eight main locations could be on the order of $85 million over two bienniums. About $70 million of the total would be attributable to the United Nations regular budget and $15 million would be chargeable to United Nations funds and programmes at Headquarters, the other specialized agencies located at the Vienna International Centre, and to the World Trade Organization with respect to the International Trade Centre in Geneva.

57. Given the magnitude of the estimated resource requirements of $70 million for the United Nations regular budget, the Committee requests that the Secretary-General submit for consideration by the General Assembly a detailed blueprint of the global access control system, with the necessary justification of all costs involved. The Committee is also of the view that, before the General Assembly considers such a plan, no money should be appropriated for this purpose. Instead, at this stage, the Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding $11.2 million for necessary planning and initial work pending the consideration of the requested report.

Information and communications technology security and business continuity

58. Paragraphs 39 and 40 of the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/365/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) deal with the need for the development and implementation of a global operational framework that would address two objectives — disaster recovery and business continuity — to enable the United Nations to respond effectively and in a timely manner to emergency situations that might impair the operations of critical elements of its information and communications technology (ICT) facilities. According to the Secretary-General, preliminary work on the project indicates that eventual global requirements, including peacekeeping operations, could amount to $30 to $35 million. No resources are currently being requested since a technical study is required to validate the preliminary work that has already been done. The Secretary-General intends to submit his recommendation with regard to the project to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

59. The Committee was informed during its deliberations that the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi and the Information Technology Services Division at Headquarters are currently performing data recovery and business continuity functions. **The Committee therefore expects that the existing capacity, expertise and experience of the United Nations Logistics Base and the Information Technology Services Division in data recovery and business continuity will be fully engaged in order to minimize the cost of the project. The blueprint of the project to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session through the Committee, should include detailed justification of all costs and an implementation time frame for the project.**

Standby stock of vehicles and equipment

Financial procedures for contingency requirements

60. It is requested that the proposed Directorate of Security be authorized to establish a standby stock of vehicles and communications and other equipment sufficient to supply an operations centre, training and additional field security coordination officers for one year; should the requirements arise to deploy those resources, the proposed Directorate of Security would be further authorized to expend the resources necessary to recruit the additional staff and to replenish the standby reserve of equipment on an "unforeseen and extraordinary basis" (see A/59/365, para. 43; and A/59/365/Add.1, paras. 163-166).

61. The Committee notes the envisaged establishment of a roster of security specialists to provide for an emergency response force. The Committee understands that it is intended to establish a system of periodic psychological and physical exams for security staff; any plan to use retirees should incorporate the new requirement (see para. 52 above).

62. With regard to equipment, the Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposal would not entail the establishment of a logistics base where vehicles and communications and other equipment would be stored before being released to meet urgent security demands; no extra costs will be involved. Instead, the Secretary-General's proposal envisages the establishment of a new financial mechanism that would ensure the necessary level of resources and sufficiently flexible access to them, including through acquiring communications and other special equipment in stock at the United Nations Logistics Base. The Secretary-General proposes that the General Assembly authorize him, effective 1 January 2005, to enter into commitments not exceeding $5,000,000 for the security measures in the field to meet the security contingency requirements, and to further authorize the Secretary-General to enter into such commitments in excess of $5,000,000 in the year 2005, with prior concurrence of the Committee.

63. The arrangements for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for security-related items were originally approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/235, sect. IV. The $300,000 limit to such expenses which was established by that resolution has been reviewed by the Assembly on a biennial basis and currently amounts to $500,000 for the biennium 2004-2005, as approved by the Assembly in its resolution 58/273. **The Committee is not convinced that an upward revision of the magnitude now proposed by the Secretary-General is warranted at this time. Under the circumstances, the Committee recommends that, as an interim measure, the upper limit be doubled to $1,000,000, bearing in mind that the Committee is available throughout the year to consider requests for commitment authority and that it is possible for it to take swift action on such requests. This limit could be reviewed when the Secretary-General submits the implementation report called for in paragraph 17 above.**

Title of the unified security management service

64. **The Committee points out that the proposed title "Directorate" for the unified security management service does not conform to the established organizational nomenclature of the United Nations Secretariat, which designates the titles "Department", "Secretariat" or "Office" at the highest hierarchical level (see A/C.5/32/17, para. 17). It is recalled that, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 32/204 on organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat, the General Assembly urged intergovernmental bodies to avoid recommendations giving particular designations to organizational units or their heads which might not be in conformity with the nomenclature proposed by the Secretary-General. The General Assembly may wish to take a decision on the proposed title for the unified security management service in line with its resolution 32/204.**

Use of surveillance technology

65. The Committee recalls that it had requested that the next report on security provide information on the use of modern surveillance technology, including the impact of technological innovation on human resources requirements for security and their configuration (see A/58/758, para. 34). No such information was provided in the report of the Secretary-General.

66. **The Committee trusts that the Administration will make full use of technological achievements that could reduce dependence on human resources. The capability of applicants for security posts to use modern means of electronic surveillance technology should also be taken into account during the recruitment process. For existing staff, appropriate training should be undertaken to ensure the development of those capabilities.**

IV. Conclusion

67. **The Committee looks forward to the further refinement of the Secretary-General's security plan. It trusts that, should the General Assembly adopt its recommendations, the plan will evolve into an effective mechanism for addressing the security needs of the United Nations system in an efficient and effective manner which reflects an integrated approach for the benefit of all concerned. The Committee is also mindful of the need to enhance the image of neutrality referred to in paragraph 2 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/365 and Corr.1). The Committee looks forward to the implementation report which it has requested and will revert to the matter of achieving economies in the utilization of resources. The present request of the Secretary-General for appropriation would be adjusted to take into account the financial consequences of those recommendations of the Committee that the General Assembly may wish to adopt.**

Annex I

Information on general temporary assistance positions

Location	*D-1*	*P-5*	*P-4*	*P-3*	*P-2*	*GS/OL*	*SS*	*LL*	*FS*	*Total*
Department of Political Affairs (Headquarters)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (Headquarters)[a]	1	-	4	1	-	4	-	-	-	10
Vienna[a]	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	10
Nairobi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	36
Bangkok	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
Beirut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator (Middle East)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
UNAMA[b]	-	-	-	-	-	-	10[c]	-	-	10
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
UNMOGIP[b]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
UNTSO[b]	-	-	1[d]	1[d]	1[c]	-	-	9	5[c]	17
Total	**1**	**-**	**6**	**2**	**1**	**4**	**20**	**63**	**7**	**104**

[a] Jointly financed activity the cost of which is shared between the United Nations regular budget and other organizations.

[b] UNAMA: United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan; UNMOGIP: United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; UNTSO: United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

[c] Recruitment procedures started.

[d] Functions currently executed at Field Service level pending conversion of posts to "Professional category", as proposed in A/59/365/Add.1.

Annex II

Status of implementation of projects to strengthen the security of the United Nations (section 33)

A. Headquarters[a]

Project	Approved by resolution 56/286 (June 2002)	Approved by resolution 58/295 (June 2004)	Total approved funding	Funds committed by September 2004	Balance	Status of implementation
Projects completed (as reported in A/58/756)	540.0		540.0	540.0	-	Fully implemented
Improvements to the fire alarm system in the first, second and third basements	2 500.0	1 450.0	3 950.0	3 522.3	427.7	Project in progress, expected to be completed by January 2005 with the exception of the installation of detectors and fan shut down expected to be completed by June 2005
Installation of sensors and air protection devices	1 700.0	-	1 700.0	190.5	1 509.5	Project deferred to capital master plan
Installation of ballistic partitions in the General Assembly hall and Council Chambers	1 000.0	-	1 000.0	358.9	641.1	Project being re-assessed
Construction of an off-site non-governmental organization resource centre and an off-site mail facility	2 650.0	-	2 650.0	-	2 650.0	Project deferred to capital master plan
Construction of an interior security control centre	3 448.0	763.5	4 211.5	4 339.7	(128.2)	Project in progress, expected to be completed by June 2005
Installation of a complex wide access control and alarm monitoring system	9 322.0	-	9 322.0	10 474.5	(1 152.5)	Project in progress, expected to be completed by June 2005
Installation of a physical security barrier around the perimeter	3 000.0	3 717.3	6 717.3	6 086.4	630.9	Project in progress, expected to be completed by June 2005
Protection of executive floors	800.0	832.9	1 632.9	825.0	807.9	The installation of man-traps, isolation doors and other security improvements to senior executive floors in the Secretariat and buildings of the funds and programmes is in progress and will be completed in June 2005
Installation of six additional physical vehicle barriers	300.0	1 428.2	1 728.2	1 509.6	218.6	Project in progress, expected to be completed by June 2005
Overhaul of the perimeter lighting system	400.0	2 529.5	2 929.5	2 802.5	127.0	Project in progress, expected to be completed by June 2005
Installation of secure electric utility vault grates	340.0	1 107.8	1 447.8	1 265.9	181.9	Project in progress, expected to be completed by June 2005
Installation of blast-proof protection film on all windows	-	2 500.0	2 500.0	1 545.2	954.8	Installation of blast film on exterior windows completed, installation of blast film on interior windows expected to be completed by December 2004
Four portable vehicle barriers		800.0	800.0	-	800.0	Project dependent on the implementation of the perimeter fence and expected to be completed by December 2005
Total	**26 000.0**	**15 129.2**	**41 129.2**	**33 460.5**	**7 668.7**	

[a] Information as provided to Headquarters by constituent offices, in September 2004.

B. United Nations Office at Geneva[b]

Project	*Approved by resolution 56/286 (June 2002)*	*Approved by resolution 58/295 (June 2004)*	*Total approved funding*	*Funds committed by September 2004*	*Balance*	*Status of implementation*
Relocation of mail and pouch shipping and receiving operations; new door 30 mail inspection/delivery area	2 386.6	3 688.4	6 075.0	-	6 075.0	Project design is completed. Construction contractor selection is expected to be completed by November 2004. Project completion expected by December 2005
Provision of full perimeter protection, including improvement of access control at the Chemin de Fer, Pregny and Place des Nations gates	11 463.8	4 755.6	16 219.4	14 362.3	1 857.1	Chemin de Fer gate: completed. Pregny gate: design completed, number of contracts finalized, with the remaining expected to be completed by December 2004. Project completion expected for December 2005. Place des Nations gate: project on hold pending completion by the Swiss authorities of the upgrading of the Place des Nations. Project is expected to be completed by December 2005. Fences: Project design completed, construction contractor selection expected to be completed by December 2004, project completion expected in the fall of 2005
Improvement of the intermediate area surveillance, including lighting and video surveillance in underground garage area	3 175.0	2 844.0	6 019.0	-	6 019.0	Design should be completed by end-October 2004
Creation of a security control centre	2 417.8	-	2 417.8	37.7	2 380.1	Project design completed. Construction contract selection expected to be completed by November 2004. Project completion date of April 2005, with the exception of those components contingent upon the global access project
Installation of air and water intake protection structures	-	515.0	515.0	-	515.0	Project interlinked with the global access project. Project expected to be completed in December 2005 for those components which are not dependent on the global access project
Installation of plastic film on windows	-	1 104.0	1 104.0	1 104.0	-	Project design completed. Construction contracts are being finalized and the project is expected to be completed by January 2005
Upgrading of the public address system for emergency announcements	-	3 826.0	3 826.0	-	3 826.0	Project design expected to be completed by end-October 2004 for an expected project completion date of September 2005
Building partitioning for fire protection, including in the conference area	-	1 174.0	1 174.0	-	1 174.0	The project was dependent on the recommendations of the fire audit, which was fully completed in September 2004. The design phase of the project is expected to commence on January 2005 for an expected project completion date of December 2007
Total	**19 443.2**	**17 907.0**	**37 350.2**	**15 504.0**	**21 846.2**	

[b] Building permits have been received from local authorities with respect to all projects.

C. United Nations Office at Vienna[c]

Project	Approved by resolution 56/286 (June 2002)	Approved by resolution 58/295 (June 2004)	Total approved funding	Funds committed by September 2004	Balance	Status of implementation
Projects completed as reported in A/58/756	1 250.0	-	1 250.0	1 250.0	-	Fully implemented
Installation of perimeter fence surveillance and alarm system	-	700.0	700.0	-	700.0	Review of specific technical options. Expected completion date: June 2005
Constructional reinforcement of perimeter gates and posts, including vehicle crash barriers	-	1 450.0	1 450.0	-	1 450.0	Vehicle crash barrier identified. Design criteria under review for the reinforcement of perimeter posts. Expected completion date: March 2005
Installation of remote closing and locking devices for building access	-	165.0	165.0	-	165.0	Design completed. Implementation schedule under review. Expected completion date: December 2004
Installation of door alarm system and closed-circuit television upgrades	-	1 800.0	1 800.0	-	1 800.0	Preliminary design and equipment specifications completed. Expected completion date: August 2005
Installation of vehicle recognition system and screening equipment for vehicle search	-	336.0	336.0	81.3	254.7	Vehicle recognition systems at gate 2, 3 4 and 5 have been installed. The installation of screening equipment is connected to the reinforcement perimeter gates. Full completion expected: March 2005
Installation of blast-proof film on windows of the Centre	-	1 500.0	1 500.0	628.5	871.5	Project in progress, expected to be completed by January 2005
Installation of stationary chemical monitoring system	-	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	Specific technical options are under review. Expected completion date: March 2005
Installation of heating, ventilating and air conditioning system access control, protection and alarm system	-	815.0	815.0	-	815.0	Specific technical options are under review. Expected completion date: June 2005
Reconstruction and upgrading of the Security Control Centre	-	50.0	50.0	-	50.0	Design completed. Expected completion date: December 2004
Total	**1 250.0**	**6 916.0**	**8 166.0**	**1 959.8**	**6 206.2**	

[c] Represents the costs on a gross basis to be financed by the Vienna-based organizations under section 29F, Administration, Vienna.

D. United Nations Office at Nairobi

Project	*Approved by resolution 56/286 (June 2002)*	*Approved by resolution 58/295 (June 2004)*	*Total approved funding*	*Funds committed by September 2004*	*Balance*	*Status of implementation*
Projects completed as reported in A/58/756	480.2	-	480.2	480.2	-	Fully implemented
Additional improvement of gates and barriers and reinforcement of perimeter fence	40.8	219.4	260.2	75.2	185.0	Project implementation depends on other projects, but basic work is in progress
Installation of a perimeter alarm system and fence — phase 3	-	109.0	109.0	-	109.0	Awaiting quotations from qualified contractors. Expected completion date: February 2005
Construction of the registration booth for conference participants in the visitors pavilion	-	56.0	56.0	-	56.0	Awaiting LAN connectivity from Information Technology Service: Expected completion date: November 2005
Installation of blast-proof protection film on windows of the entire complex	-	533.0	533.0	455.2	77.9	Installation is completed
Earthwork and civil work for barriers, turnstiles and planter boxes around entrance to the complex	-	101.0	101.0	-	101.0	Project implementation depends on the construction of the new security booths
Relocation and construction of new security booths	-	107.0	107.0	-	107.0	Design work in progress. Expected completion date: June 2005
Relocation of the commissary and gift shop from the main premises	-	980.0	980.0	-	980.0	Notification of award sent to architect for the design phase. Expected completion date: September 2005
Construction of one-stop shop off loading bay for all agencies	-	1 273.0	1 273.0	-	1 273.0	Notification of award sent to architect for the design phase. Expected completion date: September 2005
Total	**521.0**	**3 378.4**	**3 899.4**	**1 010.6**	**2 888.9**	

E. Economic Commission for Africa

Project	*Approved by resolution 56/286 (June 2002)*	*Approved by resolution 58/295 (June 2004)*	*Total approved funding*	*Funds committed by September 2004*	*Balance*	*Status of implementation*
Projects completed as reported in A/58/756	333.5	-	333.5	333.5	-	Fully implemented
Installation of blast-proof protection film on windows at headquarters and the subregional offices	-	1 000.0	1 000.0	-	1 000.0	The request for proposal has been completed, evaluation of proposals is in progress. Project completion is expected by mid-2005
Construction of an off-site pass, identification and accreditation centre premises	-	170.0	170.0	77.2	92.8	Project is in progress, expected to be completed by May 2005
Improvements to physical security and reinforcement of the existing perimeter wall	-	150.0	150.0	109.0	41.0	Project is in progress, expected to be completed by March 2005
Construction of a new perimeter security wall around the additional land granted by the host government	-	300.0	300.0	-	300.0	The design work is near completion, construction is expected to be implemented in 2005
Upgrading of the closed-circuit television system at United Nations Conference Centre and installation of a closed-circuit television perimeter intrusion detection system	-	130.0	130.0	-	130.0	The project has been deferred to the implementation of phase II security measures as it is closely linked to the global access control project
Installation of a fire alarm notification system in office buildings	-	470.0	470.0	-	470.0	The request for proposal is being finalized, construction is expected in April 2005 for completion by December 2005
Total	**333.5**	**2 220.0**	**2 553.5**	**519.7**	**2 033.8**	

F. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Project	*Approved by resolution 56/286 (June 2002)*	*Approved by resolution 58/295 (June 2004)*	*Total approved funding*	*Funds committed by September 2004*	*Balance*	*Status of implementation*
Projects completed as reported in A/58/756	101.6	-	101.6	101.6	-	Fully implemented
Installation of blast-proof film on windows at the ESCAP premises	-	300.0	300.0	183.8	116.2	Project is in progress, expected to be completed by October 2004
Installation of four hydraulic in-ground road blockers at all major entrances and installation of 20 static bollards to prevent vehicle ramming at vulnerable perimeter locations	-	92.6	92.6	103.2	(10.6)	Installation of bollards is completed. The contractor for the installation of hydraulic in ground road blockers is being selected with an expected completion of the project by December 2004
Installation of automatic vehicle bomb scanning system at the main entrance	-	125.0	125.0	125.0	-	Contractor selection is being finalized, expected completion of the project is November 2004
Installation of an intruder alarm system for all fire escape doors and access ways to the buildings	-	67.0	67.0		67.0	The project is in its design phase
Upgrading of the closed-circuit television system, including computerizing the control centre for improved monitoring and coverage	-	190.0	190.0		190.0	The project is deferred to the implementation of the Phase II security measures as it is closely linked to the global access control project
Total	**101.6**	**774.6**	**876.2**	**513.6**	**362.6**	

G. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Project	*Approved by resolution 56/286 (June 2002)*	*Approved by resolution 58/295 (June 2004)*	*Total approved funding*	*Funds committed by September 2004*	*Balance*	*Status of implementation*
Projects completed as reported in A/58/756	146.1		146.1	146.1	-	Fully implemented
Installation of blast-proof protection film on windows at the ECLAC premises	-	110.0	110.0	18.0	92.0	Design work is in progress. Expected completion date: October 2005
Construction of an off-site pass and identification centre at the southern entrance area of the ECLAC complex	-	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	The project is at a bidding stage, construction expected to be completed by January 2005
Total	**146.1**	**210.0**	**356.1**	**164.1**	**192.0**	
Grand total[4]	**47 795.4**	**46 535.2**	**94 330.6**	**53 132.3**	**41 198.4**	

[4] Total of section 33 and construction component of section 29F, Administration, Vienna (gross).

Annex III

Allocation of agency field security advisers by duty station (as at 18 October 2004)

Agency[a]	*Duty station*	*Number of agency field security advisers employed (2-12 months)*
UNDP	Afghanistan	1
UNDP	Iraq (Kuwait)	1
UNDP	Irsq (Amman)	1
UNDP	Liberia	1
Total UNDP		**4**
UNHCR	Afghanistan	6
UNHCR	Angola	2
UNHCR	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
UNHCR	Burundi	5
UNHCR	Chad	2
UNHCR	Colombia	2
UNHCR	Congo	3
UNHCR	Democratic Republic of the Congo	5
UNHCR	Eritrea	1
UNHCR	Ethiopia	1
UNHCR	Georgia	2
UNHCR	Ghana	2
UNHCR	Guinea	3
UNHCR	Indonesia	2
UNHCR	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1
UNHCR	Iraq (Amman)	1
UNHCR	Kenya	6
UNHCR	Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro)	1
UNHCR	Kuwait	1
UNHCR	Liberia	3
UNHCR	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1
UNHCR	Malaysia	1
UNHCR	Nepal	2
UNHCR	Pakistan	6
UNHCR	Russian Federation	2
UNHCR	Rwanda	1
UNHCR	Sierra Leone	4
UNHCR	Sudan	5

Agency[a]	*Duty station*	*Number of agency field security advisers employed (2-12 months)*
UNHCR	Switzerland	5
UNHCR	Tajikistan	1
UNHCR	United Republic of Tanzania	4
UNHCR	Uganda	1
UNHCR	Zambia	1
Total UNHCR		**84**
UNICEF	Afghanistan	2
UNICEF	Burundi	1
UNICEF	Haiti	2
UNICEF	Iraq (Amman)	3
UNICEF	Jordan	1
UNICEF	Liberia	2
UNICEF	Nigeria	1
UNICEF	Senegal	1
UNICEF	Sudan	6
Total UNICEF		**19**
WHO	Iraq (Amman)	1
WHO	Congo	1
WHO	Sudan	1
WHO	Switzerland	2
WHO	India	1
Total WHO		**6**
WFP	Afghanistan	3
WFP	Angola	1
WFP	Burundi	2
WFP	Central African Republic	1
WFP	Chad	1
WFP	Colombia	1
WFP	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1
WFP	Egypt	1
WFP	Ethiopia	1
WFP	Guinea	1
WFP	Haiti	1
WFP	Indonesia	1
WFP	Côte d'Ivoire	1
WFP	Jordan	2
WFP	Kuwait	1

Agency[a]	*Duty station*	*Number of agency field security advisers employed (2-12 months)*
WFP	Liberia	2
WFP	Nepal	1
WFP	Operation Lifeline Sudan	2
WFP	Israel, West Bank, Gaza	1
WFP	Panama	1
WFP	Russian Federation	1
WFP	Senegal	1
WFP	Somalia	1
WFP	South Africa	1
WFP	Sudan	6
WFP	Syrian Arab Republic	1
WFP	Thailand	1
WFP	Turkey	1
WFP	Uganda	2
WFP	Yemen	1
WFP	Zimbabwe	1
Total WFP		**43**
OHCHR	Colombia	4
Total OHCHR		**4**
Grand total		**160**

[a] UNDP: United Nations Development Programme; UNHCR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund; WHO: World Health Organization; WFP: World Food Programme; OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Annex IV

Current and proposed staffing of security and safety services at all main locations of the Secretariat

Functions	Headquarters		Geneva		Vienna		Nairobi		Addis Ababa		Bangkok		Beirut		Santiago		Total	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Chief, Security and Safety Service/Section	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	4	4
Deputy Chief, Security and Safety Service/Section[a]	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	7	1
Assistant Chief, Security and Safety Service/Section	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Chiefs of Operational Units	2	3	1	2[b]	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5
Support and Security planning	20	4	7	-	5	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	37	4
Personal protection, investigations	20	7	3	-	6	-	2	4	3	6	-	-	2	3	-	-	36	20
Annex buildings	4	9	7	4	-	-	4	4	1	20	-	-	-	-	2	-	18	37
Surveillance detection and emergency response	1	15	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	17
Control Centre	13	8	4	2	4	4	5	5	4	5	3	5	6	5	2	4	41	38
Internal patrols	62	12	10	15	19	21	12	11	9	8	13	4	7	1	9	5	141	77
Pass and ID unit	8	-	1	2	5	1	3	1	3	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	23	13
Explosive detection (canine patrols)	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Pedestrian access control	61	11	14	20	34	22	13	11	12	11	17	5	14		8	14	173	94
Vehicle access control	25	6	21	4	-	-	19	5	6	4	8	3	-	6	-	-	79	28
Fire and hazardous materials safety control	12	2	6	-	18	9	3	2	2	5	6	-	-	1	1	-	48	19
Threat assessment and crisis management	1	4	4	2	-	-	3	4	-	4	5	2	3	1	-	1	16	18
Security and Safety training	3	2	1	3	3	1	3	-	2	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	13	10
Total	**235**	**91**	**83**	**56**	**96[c]**	**59**	**71**	**48**	**46**	**71**	**55**	**22**	**35**	**20**	**24**	**27**	**645**	**394**

[a] In Bangkok, Beirut and Santiago, the existing posts at a P-3 level currently utilized to accommodate the Chief of SSS would be used for accommodation of a Deputy Chief, following establishment of the P-4 posts for the Chief in these locations.

[b] Including a new temporary post (P-4) to assist the Director in implementation of the phase II measures.

[c] Including four temporary SS posts not reported in attachment 3 of the memo of 15 October 2004.

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Agenda item 107
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Procurement reform

Outsourcing practices

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on procurement reform (A/59/216) and on outsourcing practices (A/59/227). During its consideration of the reports, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

Procurement reform

2. The report of the Secretary-General on procurement reform is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/279 of 20 December 2002. The Committee welcomes the format of the report which addresses in each section the various requests made by the Assembly in its resolution 57/279 and which summarizes the procurement reform activities undertaken and the progress made during the past two years.

3. The Committee notes from the statistical data provided in annex I to the report that the total volume of procurement has increased from $468 million in 1999 to $892 million in 2003, and that the share of the developing countries of the total volume of procurement for 2003 amounts to 13.6 per cent. The report depicts the efforts made by the Secretariat to encourage increased procurement from developing countries. Thus, paragraph 3 of the report indicates the increase in the number of seminars conducted and in the vendors successfully registered from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as the creation of a standing working group which will coordinate seminar-related activities throughout the United Nations system, develop common presentation materials and coordinate the training of staff participating in the business seminars. **The Advisory Committee encourages the exploration of other avenues through inter-agency**

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facilities, including an analysis of the current approach to seminars in order to make them more results-oriented. Also, the Advisory Committee recommends that follow-up mechanisms be considered, with a view to further increasing the procurement opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

4. The Committee notes the progress achieved in the harmonization and streamlining of procurement practices. As indicated in the report, a series of headquarters system contracts have been negotiated, open to all funds and programmes based in New York, and a tracking system that monitors the usage of system contracts now allows action to be taken when they are close to the ceiling of the established contract amount. The Internet site, UNBIZ, maintained by the Procurement Service (formerly known as the Procurement Division), provides a gateway that helps suppliers and the public to navigate the procurement sites of participating organizations in the United Nations system. In addition, the revised Financial Regulations and Rules promulgated in 2003 allow the Secretariat of the United Nations to cooperate more fully with other organizations of the system in the area of procurement. The Committee was informed that the adoption of a common commodity classification system might be considered, thus also allowing for closer interaction within the United Nations system.

5. A number of initiatives, developed to improve efficiency, are presented in paragraphs 16 to 20 of the report of the Secretary-General. Among them, one system, known as eHCC, allows the electronic processing of presentations to the Headquarters Committee on Contracts. Peacekeeping missions now submit local procurement cases that are to be reviewed by the Headquarters Committee on Contracts directly to the Procurement Service for its review and processing through the eHCC system, thereby streamlining and speeding up the whole process. The Committee was informed that this initiative was not a replacement for the process itself but that it translated into a lighter workload in terms of human resources and paperwork, and that the initiative was expected to be rolled out to the field later in 2004. **The Committee welcomes this initiative.**

6. The Committee was informed that, in February 2004, a newly designed Internet-based vendor registration system, the United Nations Global Marketplace, had been launched, in which all organizations of the system would participate. As indicated in paragraph 8 of the report, it is planned to make the Global Marketplace "a consolidated one-stop shop which will meet all requirements of both the public and the United Nations staff members working in procurement" and to roll the system out to field missions and other field offices in the near future. The system is to include a vendor performance rating system, thus allowing information on the performance of the vendors to be shared among users at United Nations organizations. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the review of vendor management mentioned in paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General and the implementation of the related recommendations in order to simplify and streamline the vendor registration process, particularly where different organizations take the lead in evaluating and pre-qualifying vendors providing goods and services in the areas in which they possess expertise, thus sharing responsibility among the various organizations of the United Nations system.**

7. The Committee was informed that, as at 21 October 2004, 4,664 vendors were fully registered and 440 vendors were provisionally registered (less than 9 per cent) in the database of the Procurement Service.

8. The Committee held an exchange of views with the representatives of the Secretary-General regarding the issue of accountability within the procurement reform framework, taking into account the weaknesses identified by the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services in relation to the process of vendor registration.[1] The Committee was informed that, although there was a mechanism to review exceptions (a committee that looks at vendor registration), a system (Mercury II) was being developed to address the issue. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the weaknesses in the process be addressed, taking into account the comments and observations of the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Committee requests that information regarding the accountability factor within the procurement reform framework be provided in the next report of the Secretary-General.**

9. As regards field procurement, the Committee notes that the Procurement Service is now responsible for clearing the candidates applying for procurement positions in the field, and that annual meetings are organized at Headquarters, with the participation of all heads of procurement at offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions, international tribunals and all peacekeeping missions, to discuss issues of common interest and provide additional training. The Committee also notes that the Procurement Service has taken over the responsibility for coordinating the training of field procurement staff, as indicated in paragraphs 14 and 22 of the report. **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the training programmes should focus on a train-the-trainers approach, by means of which, large numbers of junior personnel could be trained in a more cost-effective and efficient way. In addition, the Committee recalls that it has previously drawn attention to the need to monitor and evaluate training needs (see A/57/772, paras. 127-133, and A/58/759, paras. 75-78).**

10. The Committee enquired into the matter of delegation of authority. In this connection, it was informed that delegation of authority with regard to procurement, establishment of local committees on contracts, property management and inventory control was being finalized. The new delegations of authority, which are to be issued in the near future, are in line with those issued by the Controller for financial authority. The proposed delegation will be given, on a "personal" basis, to the Chief Administrative Officer who may delegate downwards to the Chief Procurement Officer, individual procurement officers and Field Service staff, but he/she will remain accountable for the appropriate use of the authority, thus addressing the need to strengthen monitoring, oversight and accountability.

11. The Committee notes that it is also proposed to delegate authority to the field for requirements which by their nature lend themselves to local procurement, such as leasing of premises, provision of fresh food, laundry and cleaning services, local utility services etc. These core items, of a value up to $1 million, require knowledge of local market conditions and in-theatre sources of supply, for which Headquarters cannot add significant value to the process of procurement. However, the initiative will incorporate a reporting mechanism and will be closely monitored. Core items with an estimated value of over $1 million will continue to be submitted to Headquarters for review and approval.

Outsourcing practices

12. The report of the Secretary-General on outsourcing practices (A/59/227), submitted in compliance with the request made by the General Assembly in paragraph 3 of its resolution 58/276 of 23 December 2003, provides information regarding the location, type of outsourced activity and reason for the particular requirement, based on the four basic criteria endorsed by the Assembly, as well as the savings identified, as requested by the Advisory Committee in its previous report on the subject (A/57/7/Add.1).

13. **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that consideration should be given to providing the information through a thematic approach by locality, instead of just a list of outputs, and to including an analysis of trends, which would provide a better picture of the interests of the Organization.**

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/59/5), vol. I, chap. II; and A/59/396.

A/59/541

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United Nations A/59/541–S/2004/873

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General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda items 27, 36, 39 (d), 52, 54, 65, 85 and 148

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

The situation in the Middle East

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Strengthening of the United Nations system

General and complete disarmament

Sustainable development

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 27 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, adopted at their ministerial meeting, held in Almaty, on 22 October 2004 (see annex).

Since Kazakhstan is chairing the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia process, I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items: 27, 36, 39 (d), 52, 54, 65, 85 and 148, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yerzhan Kh. **Kazykhanov**

04-57894 (E) 011104

Annex to the letter dated 27 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English/Russian]

Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, adopted at their ministerial meeting in Almaty, 22 October 2004

We, the ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), met today in Almaty to exchange views on the current situation at the regional and global levels and to explore possibilities to further cooperation, peace and security in Asia.

The situation on the Asian continent and in the world is rapidly changing. Peace, development and cooperation are the main trends, but threats to peace and security, such as terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, violent manifestations of separatism and extremism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivery and the possibility of their falling in the hands of terrorists, illicit drug trafficking, regional conflicts and disputes, foreign occupation, economic and social problems, in particular poverty, human trafficking and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, continue to exist. These threats and opportunities are global in nature and multilateral efforts by the international community are required to deal with them effectively. The situation in Asia is characterized by the diversity of its political and economic systems and unique cultural traditions, and therefore requires due attention to these particularities in the formulation of approaches for enhancing security and prosperity of our peoples.

We stress that the main objective of CICA is to make its own contribution the enhancement of an atmosphere of peace and security in Asia. In this respect, CICA represents a forum where prospects for our interaction can be discussed and appropriate multilateral approaches for enhancing cooperation can be elaborated in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Almaty Act.

We reaffirm our commitment to uphold and defend the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

We recognize the special role of confidence-building measures in enhancing cooperation and further developing an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship in Asia and in creating favourable conditions for finding solutions to problems in the military-political, economic and environmental, humanitarian and cultural spheres.

Recent developments in international relations demonstrate that multilateral approaches based on the widest possible internctional support are the most effective way to address the challenges of the contemporary world. We therefore reaffirm the central role of the United nations in the maintenance and promotion of international peace, security and sustainable development in accordance with its Charter. We emphasize the need for reform of the United Nations system .o make it more responsive to traditional and new challenges and agree to work towards this goal.

We reaffirm that the unit, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, including the right of the Iraqi people as a whole to control their financial and natural resources, should be respected by the international community. We welcome the statement by the Iraqi Interim Government to establish good relations between Iraq and its neighbouring States based on mutual respect and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as to abide by the existing treaties and arrangements, in particular those relevant to internationally recognized borders, and invite Iraq and its neighbouring States to actively cooperate to promote peace and stability in the region, including by eliminating all terrorist presence in their territories. We support the initiation of the political process in Iraq as outlined in United Nations Security Council resolution 1546 (2004). We emphasize that the United Nations should play a central role in this process. We welcome the forthcoming international conference on Iraq to be held in Egypt from 23 to 25 November 2004.

We support the process of political and economic reconstruction in Afghanistan and encourage all countries, including neighbouring States, to intensify their efforts to assist the Afghan Government in promoting stability, economic rehabilitation and fighting terrorism and drug production in the country. We also consider it necessary to continue collective efforts to chart a comprehensive strategy of international actions to counter the drug threat originating from Afghanistan. We welcome the presidential elections in Afghanistan as one of the key elements of the Bonn process and the first most important step towards establishing new state institutions based on democratic principles.

We are concerned with the situation in the Middle East and call upon all parties concerned to resume negotiations to help achieve comprehensive, lasting and just peace, security and stability in this region. We welcome initiatives to achieve this objective, in particular the Roadmap, as endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 1515 (2003), and President Bush's vision.

We support the establishment of peace and stability in the South Caucasus, which would serve the interests of all States concerned and enhance the stability of the entire Eurasian region, through the peaceful settlement of conflicts on the basis of the norms and principles of international law and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

We support the process of the Six-Party Talks aimed at denuclearization and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Korean peninsula. We stand for an early achievement of mutually acceptable agreements that would promote peace, security and cooperation in the Korean peninsula and in north-east Asia as a whole.

We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, violent manifestations of separatism and extremism and agree to enhance our efforts at bilateral and multilateral levels in fighting these common threats, which undermine the very foundations of international peace and security. The fight against these threats should be global, comprehensive and sustained, not selective or discriminatory, and should avoid applying double standards.

We unequivocally support the presidential statement issued by the Security Council of the United Nations (S/PRST/2004/31) condemning the recent terrorist attacks in the Russian Federation.

We reaffirm that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery pose a threat to international peace and security, and call upon all States to fulfil their respective obligations in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, it is vital to prevent terrorist and criminal groups from attempts to acquire nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, and multilateral efforts to reduce this threat should be greatly encouraged.

We emphasize that international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation should not affect the rights of States to access and use nuclear technology and materials for peaceful purposes, in accordance with their respective obligations emanating from relevant International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards agreements.

We recognize that economic and social progress is a vital component of security and stability in Asia. We therefore stress the importance of the development of regional and subregional dialogue and the strengthening of multilateral cooperative approaches as well as measures, as appropriate, on promoting sustainable development, economic cooperation, the well-being of our peoples and respect for human rights.

We support various multilateral and individual initiatives on development of dialogue among civilizations, which is one of the principal instruments in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and intolerance and in promoting peaceful coexistence among adherents of different religious or cultures.

Today we adopted decisions reflecting the results of the work done by the States members in order to accomplish tasks given by the heads of State and/or Government at the 2002 CICA Summit and to continue our work in preparations for the next CICA Summit.

Almaty, 22 October 2004

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Agenda items 12 and 108

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004 (A/59/393). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The revised estimates relate to a series of Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions outlined in the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee notes with appreciation that, as it had requested, the report includes a full costing of the new requirements, broken down into costs that can be met through existing resources and those that entail additional appropriations.

3. As indicated in paragraph 40 of the report, the implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2004 would give rise to estimated requirements of $1,537,600, of which $964,000 could be absorbed within the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The remaining requirements of $573,600 for the biennium 2004-2005 would be subject to the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987 for the operation of the contingency fund. The balance remaining in the contingency fund, as indicated in part XVI of Assembly resolution 58/272 of 23 December 2003, is $11,314,500.

4. The Advisory Committee requested and received information concerning the current performance for the affected sections of the programme budget. The information received indicates that, at the present stage, there is under-expenditure.

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The Advisory Committee would expect that this situation would lead to an additional capacity to absorb and intends to take this into account when it considers the possible appropriation of the amount requested by the Secretary-General.

5. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee take note of the estimate of $573,600, on the understanding that such appropriations as may be necessary will be requested by the Secretary-General in the context of a consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly.**

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Agenda item 108
Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee has considered the report of the Secretary-General on administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre (ITC) (A/59/405). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The report of the Secretary-General is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decision 57/572 of 20 December 2002, in which the Assembly endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation for the initiation of consultations with ITC and the World Trade Organization (WTO) for a joint review of the administrative arrangements for ITC, with a view to streamlining the number of budget documents produced and simplifying the budgetary approval process for the Centre to the extent possible.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that the report, prepared in consultation with the secretariats of WTO and the Centre, presents a series of recommendations to simplify the administrative arrangements, taking advantage of the recent changes in the budgetary processes of both parent organizations: in the case of the United Nations, the replacement of the four-year medium-term plan by a biennium-based strategic framework; and at WTO, the adoption of a biennium budget cycle, coinciding with that of the United Nations, replacing the previous annual one, in force until the end of 2003.

4. The Advisory Committee further notes that the technical foundations upon which the administrative arrangements are based remain the same, that is: the budget of ITC is funded in equal parts by the United Nations and WTO; the budget of ITC is calculated in Swiss francs; the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations, Financial Rules and Regulations and oversight mechanisms apply to ITC; both parent organizations are provided with the budgetary information

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simultaneously; and reports of United Nations oversight bodies and financial statements are provided to WTO (A/59/405, sect. II).

5. However, the preparation of a budget outline for approval by both parent organizations will be discontinued for the reasons indicated in paragraph 9 of the report. Instead, a simplified fascicle will be submitted in the spring of the year preceding the forthcoming financial period to the General Assembly and the WTO General Council in order that they may take note of the proposed level of resources. The issuance of the fascicle will be followed by a full detailed proposal to be submitted in the fall for decision by both bodies. The annex to the Secretary-General's report provides a detailed timeline of the current and proposed simplified procedures for the review of the ITC budget by the United Nations and WTO.

6. Since the strategic framework, as approved by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, is now an integral part of the 2006-2007 biennial budget submission, in replacement of the previous four-year medium-term plan, ITC will submit its strategic framework to the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the spring of the first year of a financial period, taking into account the review and comments of the ITC Joint Advisory Board (including the UNCTAD Development Board and the WTO Committee on Trade and Development).

7. As to the issue of the submission of the budget fascicle to WTO and the United Nations in only one format instead of two, the Advisory Committee notes that, after extensive review, it was concluded that in view of the differing requirements of the review bodies of both organizations, ITC will continue to prepare two budget fascicles containing the same financial and substantive information in different formats (see A/59/405, sect. V). **The Advisory Committee encourages ITC to endeavour to harmonize the two documents, where possible, in consultation with both the United Nations and World Trade Organization Secretariats.**

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the Secretary-General's report (A/59/405) and that it endorse the recommendations contained therein.**